



Matthew "Matt" E. Gesell

December 13, 1982 - January 19, 2026

Matthew "Matt" E. Gesell, age 43 of Mattoon, IL sadly passed away on Monday, January 19, 2026, at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO. A funeral mass in his honor will be held at 10:00 AM, Monday, January 26, 2026, at The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 320 N. 21st Street, Mattoon, IL 61938. A committal service will immediately follow in Calvary Cemetery. The visitation will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938. A vigil Rosary service will be performed prior to the visitation at 12:45 PM at the funeral home.

Matt was born on December 13, 1982, in Champaign, IL to the Melvin "Mel" E. and Rose M. (Bly) Gesell. He is survived by his parents; two brothers, Christopher Stewardson and wife Carmen of Killeen, TX, Mark Gesell and wife Laura of Mattoon, IL; two sisters, Dawn Reed and husband Mike of Windsor, IL, Beverly Bryson and husband Tim of Mattoon, IL; numerous nieces and nephews: Jessica Vaughn (Robert), Josh Richardson, Ali Kingery (Kyle), Robert Bryson (Shelby), William Bryson, Brittany Kal (Charles), Collin Stewardson, Kyle Gesell, Shelby Gesell; great nieces and nephews: Tayven, Zayden, Lincoln, and Huxton Vaughn, Mila Richardson, Jayden, Annah, Ruger, and Emmie Kingery, Bella and Cameron Kal; aunts and uncles, Ronnie and Connie Gesell and Steve and Ellen Colbert.

Matt was a devout member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church who attended faithfully with his parents and enjoyed singing hymns. He was

outgoing and sociable; Matt truly never met a stranger. He loved traveling, especially to the beaches in Florida followed by a sweet treat from his ice cream shop, Orange Octopus. Matt loved music and television sitcoms. After twenty-one years of working at CCAR Day Program, Matt made many treasured memories and wonderful friendships. He flourished while attending Camp New Hope and participating in the Special Olympics. He excelled in the events of swimming, rowing, bowling, and golf ball throwing.

He leaves a legacy of being a wonderful son, brother, and friend. Matt will be remembered for his uplifting spirit, bright smile, and loving nature.

Memorials in his honor may be made to Camp New Hope, 1364 County Rd 100 E, Neoga, IL 62447 or Special Olympics Illinois, 605 E. Willow St., Normal, IL 61761, CCAR Industries, 1530 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN 25. 12:45 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
(217) 234-8828
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Visitation

JAN 25. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

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1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
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Service

JAN **26**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
320 N 21st St
Mattoon, IL 61938-2731
(217) 235-0539

Tribute Wall

RF

“ Ron Gesell Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Matthew "Matt" E. Gesell.



Ron Gesell Family - January 24 at 10:55 AM

RF

“ Ron Gesell Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew "Matt" E. Gesell.

Ron Gesell Family - January 24 at 10:55 AM



“ 93 files added to the album Life Tributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - January 23 at 12:22 PM

AW

*Dear Gesel Family's, Hearing the news of sweet Matt's passing was heartbreaking!
He was one of my favorite students many years ago. ❤️
His friendliness, kindness and smile will truly be missed! You're all in my thoughts and prayers. Angie Walk*

Angie Walk - January 29 at 08:40 PM

KD

“ *Mel and Rose, so sorry to hear about Matt we have your family in are prayers. Roger and Kathy Dudley and family*

Kathy Dudley - January 22 at 10:22 AM

SS

“ *Stacy Sewell lit a candle in memory of Matthew "Matt" E. Gesell*



Stacy Sewell - January 22 at 07:15 AM

RR

“ *Renee Rardin lit a candle in memory of Matthew "Matt" E. Gesell*



Renee Rardin - January 21 at 08:24 PM

RR

“ Matt always wore his trademark hat!☐ He was quick with a joke, lighthearted story, and laughed a lot! I remember him sometimes wearing is RED NOSE and clowning around making everyone smile 😊 I took him and his friend Anthony to DQ for lunch and they had so much fun it was unforgettable! He is UNFORGETTABLE!! Renee from CCAR

Renee Rardin - January 21 at 08:23 PM